metro

BOSTON NO. 1 FREE DAILY IN THE US

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 metro.us | t: MetroBOS | f: MetroBoston

FROM JON SNOW TO JAMES BOND?

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Red Sox land their ace in David Price. 16

DROP OFF

Thefts of packages from stoops are down, but BPD warns Hub to avoid having packages left outside. 6

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

POLICE CHIEF OUSTED

1 Chicago's police chief, Garry McCarthy, was ousted Tuesday following days of unrest over video footage showing the shooting of a black teenager and the filing of murder charges against a white police officer in the young man's death. Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced during a news conference he had asked the top cop to resign. REUTERS

CLINTON: NO US TROOPS

2 Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton rejected the idea of sending thousands of U.S. ground troops to fight Islamic State in the Middle East, saying such a move would give the militant group a recruitment tool to boost its ranks. In her first television interview since the Paris attacks last month, Clinton largely backed President Barack Obama's strategy, pledging to defeat the militant group and engage Russia in the process if she wins the 2016 election. REUTERS

AMAZON GADGET SALES

3 Amazon said sales of its electronic gadgets more than tripled over the Thanksgiving weekend from last year, with the Fire tablet the top-selling product. Sales of the 7-inch tablet more than tripled, while the Fire TV set-top box sold six times more than last year, the company said, without providing the number of units sold. REUTERS

SHAVING DONATIONS

7 Bill Mulholland held up a sign in Dewey Square on Tuesday looking for donations to benefit men's health and the chance to shave his Movember mustache.

MAIN PHOTO BY NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, COURTROOM SKETCH OF DZHOKHAR TSARNAEV BY JANE FLAVELL COLLINS ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

NEW TRIAL REQUEST

4 Lawyers for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev asked a judge Tuesday to hold a new trial for their client, citing a Supreme Court decision that a U.S. law stiffening sentences for crimes committed while in possession of a gun was overly broad. REUTERS

NOVEMBER AUTO SALES

5 U.S. auto sales were on a path to hitting their strongest November ever, helped by marketing promotions and strength in sport utility vehicles, according to monthly sales figures released by automakers Tuesday. General Motors said the U.S. auto industry will sell 18.2 million vehicles for the month at an annualized rate, which would be a record for November. Most analysts say 2015 sales will top the record of 17.35 million vehicles in 2000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. REUTERS

OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE

6 Former Massachusetts Governor and Chicago native Deval Patrick will serve as a senior adviser to a newly formed police accountability task force spawned by the alleged murder of a black teenager by a white cop. The task force will review the system of accountability, oversight and training of police. METRO

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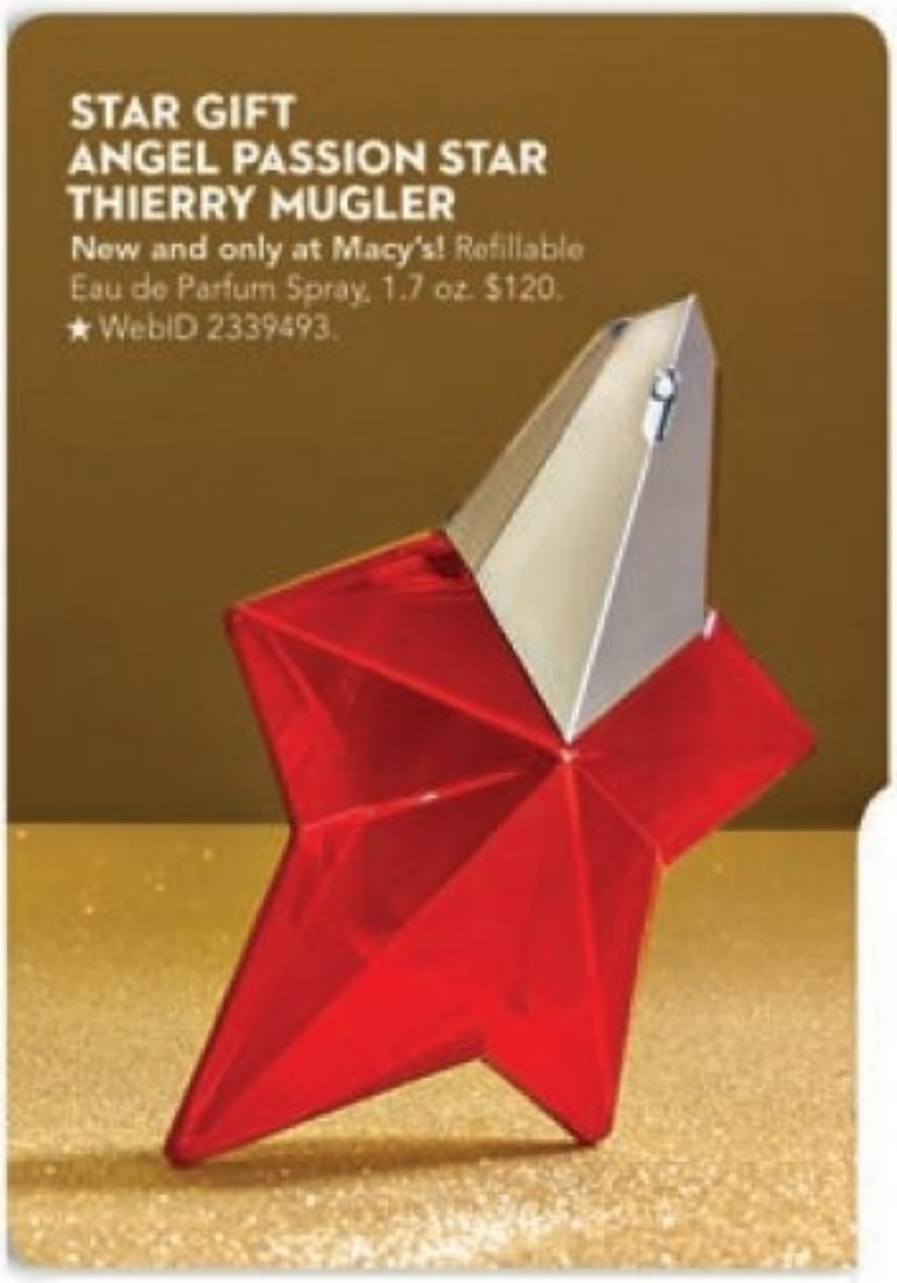

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White elephant needs new home

No Boston 2024 hopes to share its anti-Olympics get-up, maybe with L.A.

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White elephants are so hard to get rid of. BRITNI DE LA CRETAZ

Since its days as a grassroots group fighting the city's now-defunct bid for the 2024 Summer Games, No Boston 2024 has been stashing its human-size white elephant suit in storage.

Now, the group is considering sending the pachyderm get-up, once used as a mascot to protest Olympic-size waste, to another city being eyed for the Games. It's a move that could show solidarity with protest campaigns around the world, No Boston 2024 co-founder Jonathan Cohn told Metro.

"It would be great for it to have a continued role in anti-Olympic activism because it's such a potent symbol," Cohn said.

The idiom "white elephant" refers to expensive things that aren't useful long term. Olympics opponents often use it to protest the building of stadiums and other sports facilities.

Cohn said he and co-founder Robin Jacks bought the costume in April using money they earned writing an article together for the progressive magazine The Nation.

They paid about $200 for it on eBay, he said. It debuted in May at a festival and parade in Jamaica Plain, carrying a sign that read, sarcastically: "Save the White Elephant! Billionaire $$$ For Boston 2024."

But the group only got to use the purchase once. In July, the bid was kaput and the costume was then boxed up and out of sight.

> *"None of the four remaining bidding cities have scheduled a referendum on the question — the bidders are hoping the public won't ask tough questions."*
>
> Dempsey

"Thankfully, [Boston's bid] ended earlier than we expected," he said.

The irony of the situation isn't lost on Cohn. The costume cost a decent chunk of money, and was useful only until it wasn't. It was, itself, a white elephant.

So after some idea-sharing in emails among core supporters, No Boston 2024 tested the waters Tuesday via an informal poll on Twitter. It listed four options: ship it to Rio de Janeiro (host of the upcoming 2016 Games) or Los Angeles (which is now in the running for 2024), donate it to charity or keep it in the Hub.

For his part, Chris Dempsey, co-chair of No Boston Olympics, the other prominent group to emerge out of the city's bid process, said he'd like to see the costume travel around the world.

"None of the four remaining bidding cities have scheduled a referendum on the question — the bidders are hoping the public won't ask tough questions," Dempsey told Metro. "So I think the costume should make a tour of all four cities to spark debate and discussion about the pros and cons of Olympic bids."

The four cities still vying for the Games: Los Angeles, Rome, Paris and Budapest. Hamburg, Germany dropped out of the race this week after voters in that city turned the bid down in a referendum.

Opposition to the Games may not be as strong elsewhere as it was in Boston, Hamburg and the other cities that also dropped out of the running.

A unified opposition has not materialized in L.A., and an August U.S. Olympic Committee poll found support for the bid was at 81 percent in that city.

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343 packages stolen from Boston doorsteps this year

Police offer tips on keeping thieves away from shipped gifts.

SPENCER BUELL
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With holiday gift-buying happening more and more online, Boston police were warning those shopping from their laptops and smartphones to beware of curbside package thieves.

"It's a concern year round, but obviously people get more deliveries around the holiday season so there's an uptick there," police spokesman Stephen McNulty told Metro on Tuesday. "It's something to keep an eye on."

So far this year, the department has actually seen a decrease in thefts of packages from doorsteps. BPD received 343 reports of package thefts from doorsteps so far in 2015, police said — a number slightly down from last year, when there were 355 reported thefts over the same period.

The data BPD gave Metro includes Boston and Brookline and does not include thefts reported in December 2014.

Police warn residents to watch out for individuals stealing packages this holiday season. UPS driver assistant Brighdy McDonough drops off packages in South Boston on Tuesday. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

Tips

The department on Tuesday also posted a list of tips on protecting gift deliveries:

- Send packages to friends you know will be home when the delivery arrives
- Ask delivery companies not to drop off packages if you aren't home. Many local delivery centers will hold a package for up to five days.
- Ask companies to ask for a signature before dropping a package off.
- Leave a note on your door with special instructions: for example that you want your package dropped off behind or beside your house.
- Have your packages delivered to a drop-off center, or to your work, instead.

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6:45 PM Mattapan Square, Mattapan
7:15 PM Codman Square, Dorchester
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2:00 PM J.P. Monument, Jamaica Plain
2:45 PM Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain
3:15 PM Brigham Circle, Mission Hill
3:45 PM Bolling Building, Roxbury
4:15 PM Boston Center for the Arts, South End
5:00 PM Oak Square, Brighton
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1:00 PM Medal of Honor (M Street) Park, South Boston
1:45 PM Harrison Ave & Beach Street, Chinatown
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3:15 PM Thompson Square, Charlestown
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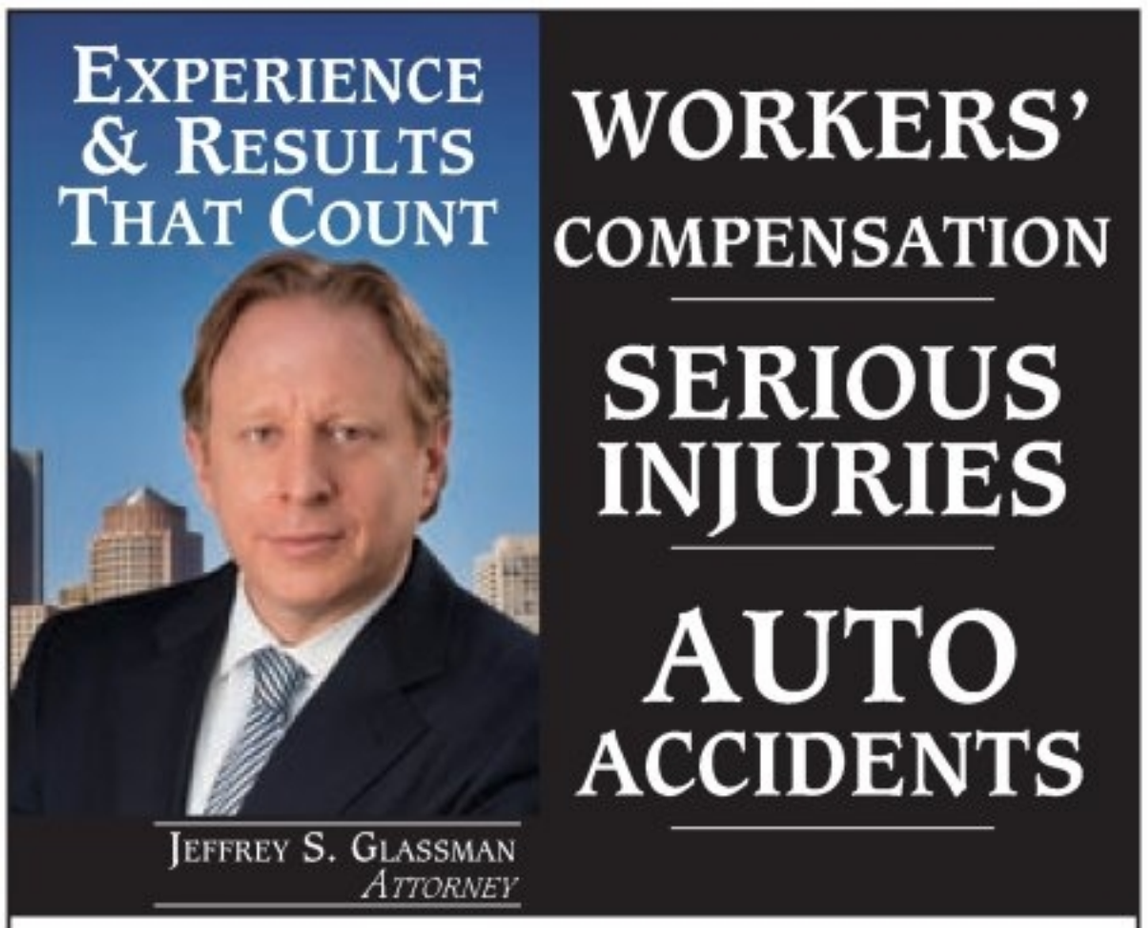

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In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Tony's Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor-in-chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive. We are now asking readers to contribute what they can to Tony's Metro Magic.

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to www.metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic logo.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system. Your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city. This season we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

METRO

ISIS online supporters include 300 Americans

Some Americans support ISIS online. GETTY IMAGES

Active online supporters of the Syria-based Islamic State movement now include about 300 people identifiable as Americans, said a study by academic experts.

The study by George Washington University's Program on Extremism said the number of other Americans who passively "consume" Islamic State propaganda runs to "several thousand," though they are not necessarily active supporters of the group.

American ISIS activists and sympathizers also use other social media, ranging from open forums such as Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and Tumblr to more secretive messaging apps including Kik, Telegram, Surespot and the dark web, the study said.

American online ISIS supporters are sufficiently active and noisy to have established themselves as "nodes," or leading voices promoting Islamic State themes, while others serve as "amplifiers," who repost materials from more prominent activists.

The study said U.S. Islamic State activists have helped craft a "unique innovation" in militant messaging. This involves creation of "shout out" accounts, which enable activists to "introduce new pro-ISIS accounts to the community and promote newly created accounts of previously suspended users, allowing them to quickly regain their pre-suspension status."

The study noted that, although American social media accounts linked to ISIS are regularly suspended, among the activists such suspensions have become a "badge of honor and a means by which an aspirant can bolster his or her legitimacy."

Operators of suspended accounts usually set up and start using a newly created account, using only a variation of the previous user name, "within hours" of most suspensions, it said.

Even though Islamic State's forerunners first emerged after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, Islamic State's "message did not exist" before the organization established itself in Syria and became involved in a civil war against the government of President Bashar al Assad, said Lorenzo Vidino, one of the study's principal authors.

Vidino cited FBI statistics indicating that U.S. authorities are pursuing 900 terrorism-related investigations in all 50 U.S. states. REUTERS

71

THIS STUDY NOTED THAT 71 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN CHARGED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES WITH ISIS-RELATED OFFENSES SINCE MARCH 2014, WITH 51 OF THOSE ARRESTS OCCURRING IN 2015.

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Obama urges Turkey leaders to reduce tensions with Russia

President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets with President Barack Obama s in Paris on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Obama met Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in Paris, where they have been attending a climate summit, a week after Turkish jets shot down a Russian warplane along the Syrian border.

President Barack Obama urged Turkey on Tuesday to reduce tensions with Moscow after the downing of a Russian warplane and to seal its border with Syria to choke off the supply of money and fighters to Islamic State militants.

He also raised the specter of Afghanistan in warning Russia against getting bogged down in its military campaign to prop up Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

But hopes of the de-escalation called for by Obama suffered a setback when Russia officially announced a list of sanctions to be imposed on Turkey and sources said Moscow may also freeze work on a major gas pipeline project.

Obama stressed that U.S. support for its NATO ally's security remained steadfast.

"The United States supports Turkey's right to defend itself and its airspace and its territory," Obama said. "We discussed how Turkey and Russia can work together to de-escalate tensions and find a diplomatic path to resolve this issue."

Obama told Erdogan that the Islamic State militant group, also known as ISIL or ISIS, must be pursued by all sides, echoing a message he delivered to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday. "We all have a common enemy, and that is [ISIS], and I want to make sure that we focus on that threat," Obama said.

Tensions between Russia and Turkey have complicated U.S. efforts to prod Moscow into steering its military might towards Islamic State rather than Western-backed Syrian opposition groups. Putin supports Assad, while Obama and Erdogan want him to go.

Obama said he did not expect a quick reversal of Putin's strategy in Syria, but Moscow may eventually align itself with the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIS. REUTERS

Pipe bomb explodes on overpass in Istanbul

Five people were injured when a pipe bomb exploded on an overpass near an Istanbul metro station on Tuesday, the district mayor said, halting some train operations and heightening security fears in Europe's biggest city.

Turkey has been on high alert since more than 100 people were killed by two suicide bombers in the capital Ankara in October, three months after a similar attack at a town near the Syrian border in July left 33 dead.

Tuesday's blast near the Bayrampasa metro station came at the height of the evening rush hour, district Mayor Atilla Aydiner told A Haber television. Bayrampasa is a residential and industrial area on the European side of Istanbul.

Another broadcaster earlier reported that one person had been killed but Aydiner confirmed only five injuries.

CCTV footage showed a flash of light on the overpass followed by what appeared to be burning embers showering to the ground. REUTERS

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(Continued on next page)

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PHOTO ENLARGEMENT SHOWS ENGRAVING DETAIL

(Continued from previous page)

at least two Vault Bricks is also getting free shipping and free handling. That's a real steal because all other state residents must pay over six hundred dollars for each State Vault Brick.

Just a few weeks ago, nobody knew that the only U.S. State Silver Bars locked away in the private vaults of the Federated Mint would be released to residents in 6 states. Every single one of the 50 U.S. State Silver Bars are date numbered in the order they ratified the Constitution and were admitted into the Union beginning in the late 1700s.

"As Executive Advisor to the Federated Mint I get paid to deliver breaking news. So, for anyone who hasn't heard yet, never before seen U.S. State Silver Bars are now being handed over at just the state minimum to residents in 6 states who beat the offer deadline, which is why I pushed for this announcement to be widely advertised," said Mary Ellen Withrow, the emeritus 40th Treasurer of the United States of America.

"These heavy bars are solid .999 pure fine silver and will always be a valuable precious metal which is why everyone is snapping up as many as they can before they're all gone," Withrow said.

There's one thing Withrow wants to make very clear. State residents only have two days to call the Toll Free Order Hotlines to get the U.S. State Silver Bars.

"These valuable U.S. State Silver Bars are impossible to get at banks, credit unions or the U.S. Mint. In fact, they're only being handed over at state minimum to MA, NH, VT, RI, CT and NY residents who call the Toll Free Hotline before the deadline ends two days from today's publication date", said Timothy J. Shissler, Executive Director of Vault Operations at the private Federated Mint.

To make it fair, special Toll Free Overflow Hotlines have been set up to ensure all residents have an equal chance to get them.

Rapid shipments to state residents are scheduled to begin with the first calls being accepted at precisely 8:30am today.

"We're bracing for all the calls and doing everything we can to make sure no one gets left out, but the U.S. State Silver Bars are only being handed over at just the state resident minimum for the next two days or until they're all gone, whichever comes first. For now, residents can get the U.S. State Silver Bars at just the state minimum as long as they call before the order deadline ends," confirmed Shissler.

"With so many state residents trying to get these U.S. State Silver Bars, lines are busy so keep trying. All calls will be answered," Shissler said. ■

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■ **A SNEAK PEAK INSIDE SILVER VAULT BRICKS:** Pictured left reveals for the very first time the valuable .999 pure fine silver bars inside each State Silver Vault Brick. Pictured right are the heavy State Silver Vault Bricks containing the only existing U.S. State Silver Bars. MA, NH, VT, RI, CT and NY residents are authorized to get individual State Silver Bars at just $57 state resident minimum. That's why nearly everyone is taking full Vault Bricks loaded with five State Silver Bars before they're all gone. And here's the best part. Every resident who gets at least two Vault Bricks is also getting free shipping and free handling. That's a real steal because all other state residents must pay over six hundred dollars for each State Vault Brick.

So much for Courteney Cox's engagement

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Courteney Cox is reportedly in a state of shock after the sudden end of her engagement to and relationship with Snow Patrol musician Johnny McDaid, according to Radar Online. "Courteney is just blown out of the water by this. She's really down in the dumps," a source says. "Johnny was really the love of her life. She doesn't know where this came from." Where it came from, according to the source, is McDaid wanting to get the focus back on his career and his reported discomfort at being her arm candy. "Johnny had a hard time dealing with her celebrity lifestyle," the source explains. "He had enough of the scene and just wants to focus on his music." Cox and McDaid started dating in late 2013 and were engaged in June 2014.

Lupe Fiasco reignites feud with Kid Cudi

Lupe Fiasco's beef with Kid Cudi is far from over. While things have been quiet since their initial Twitter beef in January — when Cudi publicly criticized Fiasco for engaging in a Twitter war with Azealia Banks — the bad blood is back in full force. At a Milwaukee concert last weekend, Fiasco fired a shot at Cudi via a freestyle rap: "Make sure that you listen to every rhythm that I be spit-tin', unconditionally written. P.S.: To all my enemies, you are now forgiven. Except Kid Cudi, 'cause that's not my motherf—ing buddy, if I see him in the streets, it's getting motherf—ing ugly." At least Fiasco expressed some remorse for the jab on Twitter: "At the end of that Milwaukee freestyle I let tha Cudi s—t go. He still a b—h in my book. But Im done wit it #promise." Cudi, for his part, has kept quiet. EMILY LAURENCE

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Never thought I would actually say this, but jesus christ are we f—ing there yet??

That Adele-Lionel Richie mash-up could become real

Remember when Adele's "Hello" video came out and within hours there was a hilarious mashup of her hanging up on Lionel Richie? Well, apparently so does he. "You have no idea how many people called me and said, 'Are you going to let her get away with that? She stole 'Hello,'" he tells E! News. "It blew everything to the ceiling. The conversation came up." And he wants more: "We are going to be doing something together — that's already almost in the works. I can almost say that we are talking." Almost? It sounds like she's still not taking his calls.

holiday gift guides

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Kit Harington doesn't want to be James Bond

The "Game of Thrones" and "MI:5" star has no 007 aspirations.

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"MI:5" is available now on DirecTV and in theaters in New York and On Demand Friday. DIRECTV/SABAN FILMS

Kit Harington takes a break from playing the maybe alive, maybe dead Jon Snow on "Game of Thrones" to suit up as a hard-charging, gun-toting British spy. But not *that* British spy. Harington stars in the film extension of the British TV drama "MI:5," and to hear him tell it, this is a far cry from the world of James Bond.

A big spy thriller is an important entry on an actor's bucket list.
I found it really exciting. I like quite physical roles and action-based roles, and I felt I hadn't quite filled my quota of them as a young man just yet. I also wanted to step into a more modern movie, something set now. I'm seriously anti-gun, actually, but there's something quite exciting to get to do it as an actor — run around as a spy with a gun. But I think I wanted to do it because he felt like a bit of a different spy to me, really. He wasn't really Bourne and he wasn't Bond. I kind of like working my way through genres or roles, and "spy" was definitely on my bucket list to play.

Would you be up for doing more, even though you've crossed that one out?
I think so, sometime in the future with the right role. I felt this one was exciting because it felt very British. I'm a London boy and it was shot in my hometown — a real London, not a kind of Hollywood-ized version of London where you see a red bus and the Houses of Parliament. It felt more real than that. There was a lot of brutalist architecture and the South Bank, and that's the London I know.

And you actually filmed at Heathrow, which is impressive.
It was slightly hairy, though. I had to run through Heathrow when it wasn't locked down with a handgun, which is kind of a bit worrying, seeing as you've got armed guards there. You sort of have that worry that there might be one policeman who wasn't at the briefing that morning, just turned up late or something and sees a young man running toward the departure gate with a handgun. It's probably a shoot-to-kill policy, I would've thought.

Harington OLIVIER VIGERIE

Bearish on Bond

You're young, British and playing a spy. How many questions about being the next James Bond have you had to weather?
(Laughs) Yeah, it's funny that, isn't it? The fact that it's an English spy movie and I'm a Brit really sort of opens the door for a question of, "Would you like to play James Bond?" I don't think I'll ever get to play Bond, quite seriously, and it's such a ridiculous question to be asked. I love Bond, but this is definitely not Bond. This is more based in reality than Bond is.

An ode to holiday binge-watching

The holidays are a good time to catch up with old friends, including the heroes of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." PROVIDED

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

I love a good binge-watch. I often have to do it if I'm covering a show I've never seen for a website, or because I don't want to be spoiled for a new episode. After doing so much of it, I have to say it's the best way to watch anything. I know the week-to-week anticipation can be thrilling, but there is something insanely satisfying about crashing headlong through a season or a series and looking at it as a whole.

If you haven't done this yet, let me give you some reasons to try it during the holiday break. For one thing, it's an excellent way to avoid family squabbles. But there are other reasons.

When watching a season or a series in a large chunk, you really get a sense of character development. You see it unfolding in "real time." It's not like a friend you check in with here and there and get updates on their life every week or so. It's like you're living their life with them. Watching a "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" marathon, you really see the emotional turmoil her death and subsequent resurrection had on her. You feel the pain of her mother's death and see it carried into the next episode with no time to mourn. She certainly didn't. You feel Jessica Jones' anxiety about her lack of control after Kilgrave returned.

Immersion has the power to give you a completely different perspective. Following someone else's story can create compassion. No, go with me here. Watching the effect of rape on "Veronica Mars" for an extended amount of time gives you a feeling of being in someone else's head. When we allow ourselves to walk in someone else's shoes, it gives us greater understanding of what it's like to go through something like that. You do feel changed after a good binge-watch.

On the flip side, it's kind of a blast to look for inconsistencies in a show. While binge-watching "The Tudors," I had as much fun talking about historical inaccuracies and little places they messed up as I did enjoying what was an excellent show.

Then there is that immediate-gratification thing. Hey, it has fewer calories than pumpkin pie! What are you binge-watching this holiday?

Live like a Kennedy

The "Honey Fitz" house as it looks today.
PROVIDED

A piece of Dorchester history is finally on the market.

MEGAN JOHNSON
@MetroBOS
letters@metro.us

The former home of beloved Boston mayor and maternal grandfather of John F. Kennedy Jr., John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, is for sale for $558,000. And while the six-bed, two-and-a-half-bath home, located on Rundel Park in the Ashmont section of Dorchester, has seen a variety of Kennedy relatives come through its doors over the years, the prospective sale is bittersweet for owner Jim Cramen, whose family moved into the 13-room home in 1972.

After spending most of his life in the 3,322-square-foot house, Cramen is ready to downsize. "My parents took a bit of pride in being able to tell people who lived here before us and the previous owner," says Cramen, who has some unique memories of growing up in a home formerly inhabited by Kennedys.

There were the multiple phone jacks in the closet of the master bedroom, which the Secret Service once used to listen in on conversations when JFK stopped by. And then there's the inspection tags on the furnace in the basement, with Thomas Fitzgerald's name on them.

Former neighbors would recite stories for Cramen about the onslaught of security when JFK would visit, as well as memories of Mrs. Fitzgerald sitting at the window, waving as neighbors went by.

A quiet cul-de-sac, once known as Arundel Park leads to the historic home, built by renowned Dorchester architect Edwin J. Lewis Jr. Intricate dentil and crown moldings line the rooms, while the dining room, which still has an area where staff served the family buffet-style, leads into a butler's pantry. There's a formal front staircase as well as a more discreet second staircase originally for the staff, who lived on the third floor.

In a neighborhood where property is so highly coveted, purchase of the home would ensure buyers a spot in one of Dorchester's most beautiful areas. But whoever buys the home should be ready to spend some significant money on a rehabilitation project.

Listing agent Charlene Folan of Jack Conway & Co. estimates that restoring the home fully would require $200,000. "People come here and say that if they had the money, they would love to restore this property because of the history, the location and the amount of space," says Folan. "But it would take a lot of money and a lot of passion."

But for Cramen, the home is more than just a place to live. "We all think of Rundel Park sort of as an 'entity,' not just a house. We won't have a home in Dorchester anymore, although Dorchester will always be home for all of us," he says. "But I think it is time for Rundel Park to move on, too, and be filled up with a new family and be part of their memories."

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Panthers (11-0)

The Patriots' first loss means Carolina finally reaches the top, and maybe they should have sooner. The last undefeated team shows no signs of slowing down. It's been four weeks since Carolina played an opponent (the Colts) that finished within a score.

No. 2

Broncos (9-2)

After the win over New England, the Broncos sit just a game back from the Patriots in the race for home field advantage in the AFC. They have a home game upcoming against the Bengals that could further that case. Who's to say the Pats can't drop another game and propel Denver?

No. 3

Patriots (9-1)

Bill Belichick and Tom Brady's chance for a second undefeated regular season is lost, but the more devastating loss is certainly Rob Gronkowski. The injuries sustained by the Patriots so far could be partly offset by Brady's ability to rely on his biggest threat, figuratively and literally.

No. 4

Cardinals (9-2)

The Cardinals were oddly flat against San Francisco, but maybe that's what happens a week after winning a close one over an opponent as big as the Bengals. And hey, if it weren't this close, we probably wouldn't have seen Carson Palmer run into the end-zone for that spectacular spike.

No. 5

Bengals (9-2)

All's well in Bengalland. Andy Dalton found his two favorite targets three times in the end-zone: A.J. Green and Tyler Eifert. For Eifert, it was his 12th touchdown on the season. For Green, his two scores were his first since Week 8, and that score was his first since Week 3 against the Ravens.

No. 6

Packers (7-4)

Brett Favre's big night was spoiled not by weather, but Green Bay's fourth loss in five games. Usually the weather is to the Packers' advantage, but it was their receivers who seemed to suffer most Thanksgiving night. Positives: Eddie Lacy and James Starks combined for 144 rushing yards.

No. 7

Vikings (8-3)

This was a really nice bounce-back game for the Vikings. Fresh off a defeat that looked worse than it was to Green Bay, they came out and stayed true to themselves — pounding Adrian Peterson down the highly ranked Falcons rush defenses' throat. This is how they'll win.

No. 8

Chiefs (6-5)

It's crazy to think the Chiefs could go 0-5, and then finish 10-0 to go 11-5 right? The only opponents left on their schedule: Raiders, Chargers, Ravens, Browns, Raiders. It's crazy right? One thing in their favor: They apparently can't find bad running backs in Kansas City.

No. 9

Seahawks (6-5)

After five wins against subpar competition, Seattle was in place for a put-up or shut-up moment, and they put up. It was their passing game that came through, as Russell Wilson threw five touchdowns, three to Doug Baldwin. Can they keep it up with Jimmy Graham now injured?

No. 10

Steelers (6-5)

Turnovers, they'll get you. Four interceptions, two from Ben Roethlisberger and two from Landry Jones, put Pittsburgh behind the eight ball, even though they gained 538 total yards Sunday. The Steelers' secondary was questioned before the game, and their performance didn't help.

No. 11

Colts (6-5)

Two trains roll on: Matt Hasselbeck's winning streak as the Colts' starting quarterback, and the Colts' abysmal inability to run the football. It is now 45 games without a 100-yard rusher for Indy, not since Vick Ballard in 2012, and Frank Gore's latest efforts are trending the wrong way.

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One steep Price

The Red Sox rolled the dice on David Price on Tuesday, landing the superstar hurler with a whopping seven-year, $217 million deal. The average annual value of the deal is the most ever for a pitcher. For more on the Price signing, please see Metro.us. GETTY IMAGES

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1/16 Sunday River
1/17 Killington
1/18 Loon*
1/22-24 Sunday River
1/23 Jay Peak
1/24 Sugarbush
1/29 Sunday River*
1/29-31 Orford, Canada
1/30 Stowe
1/31 Sunday River

FEBRUARY
2/3 Sunday River*
2/6 Jay Peak
2/7 Bretton Woods
2/12 Killington*
2/12-15 Montreal
2/13 Stowe
2/14 Jay Peak
2/15 Sunday River
2/18 Bretton Woods*
2/19-21 Sugarloaf
2/20 Jay Peak*
2/21 Killington
2/24 Bolton Valley*
2/26-28 Sunday River
2/27 Sunday River
2/28 Loon

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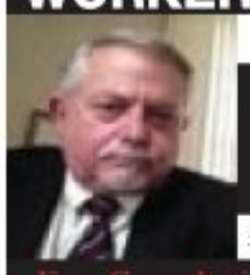

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Aries Speak up and clear the air if you feel it will help a conflict. Anger is a waste of time, and ignoring the situation will result in emotional stress.

Taurus Look at the big picture and find a way to reach your destination. A monetary gain is apparent if you put in the time and effort.

Gemini Engage in some serious self-reflection in order to discover a way to address any problem you are experiencing.

Cancer An older person in your life will compete for your attention. A compassionate approach will clear up a misunderstanding.

Leo The more you pursue the things you want, the better you will do and the more you will gain. A penny saved is a penny earned.

Virgo Expect someone to make poor assumptions. Ignore what's being said and paint a clear picture that reveals the facts.

Libra Empty promises will be a result of you not wanting to make up your mind or make a move. Assess the situation and take action.

Scorpio You'll accomplish the most if you stay out of the spotlight. Secretly making changes to a plan will help you avoid interference.

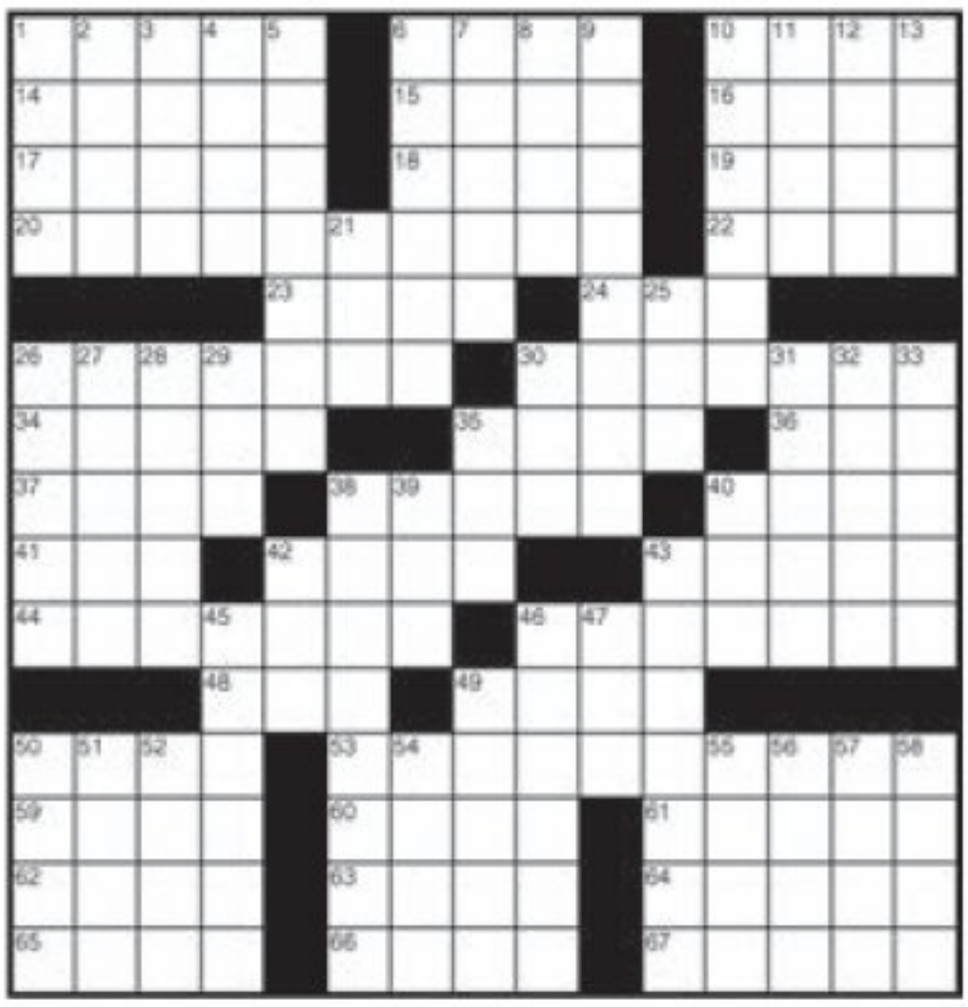
Sagittarius Keep your thoughts to yourself and your private matters secret. Interference from others will be what stands between you and success.

Capricorn Your desire for change may concern the people who love you. Follow your heart. If your actions are less transparent, you will avoid interference.

Aquarius Someone you love will demand extra attention. Don't give in too readily if you have made a prior commitment.

Pisces Take care of health problems. Make an appointment with your doctor or get some needed rest. Don't let anyone upset you. **EUGENIA LAST**

metro.us/crossword



Across

1 — el-Sadat
6 Mighty steed
10 Ice-cream treat
14 Rim
15 Bartok or Lugosi
16 Prompted
17 Windy City airport
18 With, to Pierre
19 Fjord port
20 Very close
22 AAA suggestions
23 Bird abode
24 Snapshot
26 Gamboled
30 Drive-in servers
34 Shake a leg
35 Insect resins
36 Placed
37 Wednesday's god
38 Fake bullet
40 Translucent mineral
41 Hamm of soccer
42 Income sources
43 Full of crud
44 Self-important
46 Generosity
48 It may be poached
49 Highway hauler
50 Veers
53 Lead? (2 wds.)
59 Touched down
60 Get bored
61 — coon cat
62 Freeway strip
63 Europe-Asia range
64 Odds' opposites
65 Cal Tech grad
66 Ink sources
67 Update a watch

Down

1 Bard's river
2 Radar O'Reilly's drink
3 Stole, for example
4 Taj Mahal site
5 NASA splashdown
6 Diminished
7 Ziegfeld offering
8 Baldwin of films
9 Hiker's gear
10 Pressing problem?
11 Supplant
12 Edit out
13 Hubbubs
21 Rapper Dr. —
25 W-2 collectors
26 Eat like a horse
27 Video companion
28 Troy's last king
29 Sea eagle
30 "Little Engine" verb
31 Hazard a guess
32 Hockey needs
33 Visits
35 Refrain syllables
38 Cleared the shelves (2 wds.)
39 Deli units
40 Coffee holder
42 Get some exercise
43 More bleak
45 Bother
46 Floors or stories
47 A Vanderbilt
49 See-through sealer
50 Type of lock
51 Novelist — Paton
52 Annex
54 Blarney Stone locale
55 Chalet feature
56 Makes a bow
57 Murray or Rice
58 Perchance

For crossword answers, go to **metro.us/crossword-answers**

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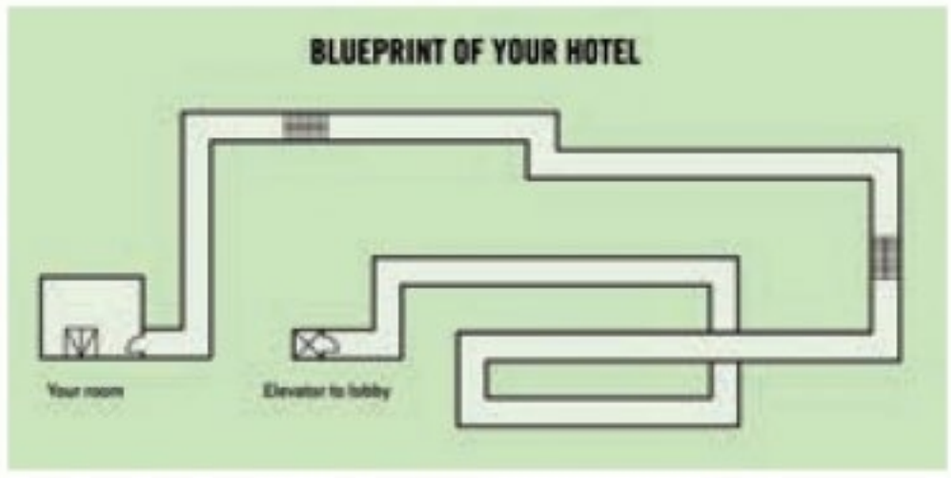

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easy

		4	8			1		9
					3	4		6
5		2					8	
				8	7	3	9	
9				6				7
	4	7	5	9				
	1					8		5
2		9	4					
7		3			8	9		

hard

	4	7		5				1
9			6				3	5
5			1					
2			9			5		
4		3				1		2
		1			7			6
					2			9
6	3				5			7
1				6		3	5	

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